

## Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

RSR-01 /084 W

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R 292139 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9238

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2707

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

1. FUERZA DEMOCRATICA POPULAR ( FDP) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JORGE DAGER TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR THIS WEEK THAT HIS PARTY, INCLUDING 1958 PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT WOLFGANG LARRAZBAL, WILL SUPPORT AD CANDIDATE CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ ( CAP) IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THAT LARRAZBAL, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PRO- COPEI, WAS CONVINCED TO THROW HIS SUPPORT FOR CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ FOLLOWING SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CAP AND COPEI CANDIDATE LORENZO FERNANDEZ LAST MONTH.

ACCORDING TO DAGER, LARRAZBAL BECAME CONVINCED THAT LORENZO WAS WEAK AND EVEN DANGEROUS CANDIDATE AND THAT DESPITE LARRAZBAL' S PERSONAL DISLIKE FOR AD HE FELT THAT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ SHOULD AND WOULD BE NEXT PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA. DAGER SAID THAT DECISION WOULD PROBABLY BE ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 15 AND CONVENTION WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE CALLED FOR FDP FORMALLY TO ANNOUNCE ITS SUPPORT FOR CAP AND AGREE TO RUN ON JOINT TICKETS THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA.

2. DAGER, FORMER ADECO AND FORMER KEY MEMBER OF MIR, STILL RETAINS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AMONG POOR PEOPLE IN BARRIOS AND IN REGIONS WHERE AD IS WEAK. DAGER SAID RETIRED ADMIRAL LARRAZBAL WOULD RESIGN FROM HIS PRESENT POST AS AMBASSADOR TO CANADA AND RETURN TO VENEZUELA TO CAMPAIGN FOR  
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CAP. BACKING OF LARRAZABAL AND DAGER COULD BE SIGNIFICANT  
BOOST TO CANDIDACY OF CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WHO IS ALREADY RIDING  
HIGH WITH RECENT POLLS INDICATING HIM WELL IN LEAD.  
YET SUCH AN ALLIANCE COULD ALSO RESULT IN COPEI SEEKING  
SUPPORT FROM URD AND PERHAPS OTHER FORCES ON THE LEFT.  
THE PICTURE WILL REMAIN UNCLEAR BUT AN AD- FDP ALLIANCE,  
TOGETHER WITH THE RECENT RETURN OF PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO  
NACIONAL AND POSSIBLE RETURN OF JOSE GONZALEZ  
NAVARRO' S CONGRESSO DE TRABAJO TO THE AD FOLD, COULD  
FIELD A TEAM DIFFICULT TO BEAT IN DECEMBER 1973.  
MCCLINTOCK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** VENEZUELAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN  
**TAGS:** PINT  
**To:** ARA  
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